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The Hongkong Telegraph

WEATHER-FORCAST
FAIR.
Barometer 29.84

(ESTABLISHED 1861.)

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April 27, 1918. Temperature 6 a.m. 70 3 p.m. 76
Humidity 96

April 27, 1917. Temperature 6 a.m. 62.3 p.m. 76
Humidity 97

7927 日七十月三

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1918.

六拜禮 號七廿月四英曆

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REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.

THE FRANCO-BRITISH POSITIONS.

REPEATED ATTACKS AND COUNTER-ATTACKS.

Reports from Sir Douglas Haig.

London, April 26.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—Franco-British positions from the north of Baillieu to the east of Wytschaete have been heavily attacked all day. The fighting has been of great severity on the whole of this front, particularly in the neighbourhood of Dranoutre, Kemmel and Vierstraet. In the course of repeated attacks and counter-attacks the Allies were compelled to withdraw from positions held this morning. The fighting continues. South of the Somme successful Australian and English counter-attacks last night regained positions in and around Villers Bretonneux. We advanced the line to within a short distance of the former front. We took over six hundred prisoners. The village is now in our hands. The enemy employed at least four divisions in yesterday morning's attack on this front. Prisoners state that the objectives included Ouchy village and the Ouchy Rouilly road but the objectives were not reached anywhere. The numbers of dead found in the recaptured positions, shows that the enemy's losses were very heavy.

Speaking of aviation, Sir Douglas Haig says that despite the mist yesterday our aviators attacked troops in the neighbourhood of Villers Bretonneux from a low height. We brought down three machines. Two of ours are missing. Our night fliers dropped five-and-a-half tons of bombs on Estaires, Armentieres and Roulers and also the railway stations at Courtrai and Thourout. All the machines returned.

The French Heavily Attacked.

London, April 26.

Reuter's correspondent at the British Headquarters says:—During the last two nights the enemy has attacked the French around Dranoutre in strength. Six battalions gained a temporary advantage but were driven back by counter-attacks. This morning a much heavier assault was delivered by four or six divisions over a front seven miles long on the line from Metereen-Baillieu-Wytschaete. An Alpine Corps of the 11th Bavarians and 117th Divisions, consisting of mountain troops, were engaged with Jaeger regiments supporting and an entirely fresh division, the 58th, was identified in the attack which overtopped on our front on the right flank of the French.

A Notable British Success.

London, April 26.

Reuter's correspondent at British Headquarters writing on the evening of April 26th states:—The success at Villers Bretonneux, beginning with a splendid counter-attack last night, has been a great performance. It cost the Germans terribly dear to get a footing in the village which will be scarcely less expensive than if they had been cleared out as seems likely. We have doubtless re-established our line east of that place. German tanks have not particularly distinguished themselves. Five concentrating upon a single British "female," on the arrival of a male tank quickly made off. It was two of our light tanks of the small mobile pattern which did fearful execution among a fresh enemy division, which has not yet entered battle since arriving from the Russian front. These tanks charged the massed troops again and again locking on returning as if they had been wallowing in a vast shambles. An unconfirmed report states that the Germans this morning reached the crest of Mont Kemmel, but later reports indicate that it is improbable that the Allies have lost any high ground.

The Enemy's Strategy.

London, April 26.

A special Reuter message says that the progress of the battle shows that the Germans are continuing their plan of striking in two directions simultaneously, their immediate objectives being the Channel and Amiens. They have received a severe repulse in the southern area, thanks to the magnificent counter-attack carried out by the Australians, supported by English regiments including Berkshires, Northampton, Durham, and Yorkshires. It was the English regiments, of which many were young troops recently from England, that gallantly held Villers against an inferno of gas shelling until overwhelmed by an assault by five divisions of infantry. The Germans seized and established a permanent hold on the village, which was packed with machine guns. Hence it was necessary that the counter-attack should be a surprise. It was accordingly decided to make a night attack with bombs, bayonets and machine guns, without an artillery preparation. The battle took hours of the most grim fighting, all the more gruesome because the guns had temporarily become silent as the combatants were inextricably mixed before the Germans were finally driven out and an important position dominating Amiens restored to British hands. The enemy will probably return to the assault of Villers on this account, but he is here in a sharp and awkward salient formed by the cor de la Somme and the Avre, which at present is nothing but a slaughter house for him. Hangard is almost equally important, but it has changed hands so often that the enemy's hold may be considered precarious. It is possible, however, that a really big offensive will develop south of Ypres and the mention of heavy fighting to the north-east of Baillieu may indicate such a development. The position at Kemmel, where the French hold critical positions, is not so satisfactory. The mention of Vierstraet seems to suggest that the withdrawal included a retirement from the last positions of the Messines Ridge near Wytschaete.

Fighting on the Banks of the Avre.

London, April 26.

A French communiqué states:—There is great reciprocal artillery fighting in the region of Hangard on both banks of the Avre. There is no infantry fighting. Germans in the Woerwa sector, after a furious bombardment attacked the sector of Bagnyville and gained a footing in our advanced line. They were promptly ejected and our lines were restored. We took prisoners. There is an artillery duel on the right of the Meuse and in the Vosges. Seven German aeroplanes, and a captive balloon were fallen on April 22 and 23. Ten other aeroplanes were driven down damaged in the enemy's lines after fights.

REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.

THE RAID ON ZEEBRUGGE.

THE ADMIRALTY'S STATEMENT.

Captain of The Vindictive's Story.

London, April 25.

The papers continue to give full accounts of the marvellous work of the Zeebrugge and Ostend enterprises.

The Captain of the Vindictive states, that before starting, the Admiral signalled "St. George for England" and the Vindictive replied "may we give the dragon's tail a damned good twist." The Captain adds that before the operation every man was informed fully as to the great risk, but not a single man backed out. He continued:—"In one ship a certain number of men were to be left but in almost a mountainous spirit they came before the Captain and refused to leave. So eventually they were taken aboard one of the block ships. All the ships started off at great speed under a wide smoke screen by craft ahead. Meanwhile a heavy bombardment was being carried on by monitors. Emerging from the smoke screen the Mole of Zeebrugge could be seen a hundred yards away. We got alongside the Mole and made efforts to grapple it. The Daffodil, which was following close astern, came up and in most gallant manner placed her bows against the Vindictive and pushed the latter sideways against the Mole. The Iris also got alongside two hundred yards ahead of us. There was a heavy swell and the ships were rolling and our men had to climb along the bows which was a very perilous task especially as the ends of these bows were one moment ten feet above the wall and the next moment crashing on to the wall itself. The way, the men got ashore was almost superhuman. It was not only a case of bare-foot seamen running along the deck but of men, carrying heavy accoutrements, bombs, Lewis guns, and other things along a very narrow and exceedingly unsteady plank. Twenty-five minutes after we were alongside, the blockships were seen rounding the lighthouse, heading for the entrance to the canal and we knew that the work of covering their entrance had been accomplished. Fifteen minutes later there was a tremendous explosion at the shore end of the Mole and we knew that our submarine had got in between the piles and the viaduct connecting the Mole and the shore, and we knew that the submarine's crew had blown up the ear-marine, cutting off the Mole from the shore. The crew got away in a small motor skiff but the propeller was lost and the skiff had to be paddled against the heavy tide under machine gunning from only a few feet range. A large number of Germans were on the viaduct a few feet above the submarine firing machine guns. Everyone of these Germans went up with the viaduct and the cheer that went up from the men when they saw the terrific explosion was one of the finest things I have ever heard. The only question that the wounded men asked was "Have we won?" as if it had been a football match. One poor fellow was lying on the deck with one arm shot off, but he waved the other as I passed saying "The very best luck to you, sir." The leading blockship ran aground close off the entrance to the canal on the edge of the channel and was sunk as far as possible across the channel. She signalled to the other two which went past her in a straight line through the canal entrance and inside the shore line. Rather over an hour after the Vindictive got alongside the situation was this:—The blockships had passed in and got to the end of their run and they could not do more. The viaduct had been blown up and the Mole scoured. It would only have meant sacrifice of life for the boarding party to remain longer so signals to withdraw were given and all that could get away got away. "Every man and officer behaved so splendidly that even now it's all over the whole thing seems like a dream."

Full Narrative By the Admiralty.

London, April 26.

The Admiralty has issued a full narrative of the raid on Zeebrugge and Ostend which, in its stirring details, brings into strong relief both the immense difficulties of the task undertaken and the astonishing ingenuity and reckless daring with which they were overcome. The narrative is full of thrilling episodes, experiences of the individual vessels engaged and of the storming party on the Mole. Naturally the most striking of these are the experiences of the Vindictive which landed the force on the Mole and her attendant ferry boat, the Iris and Daffodil. As the Vindictive lay alongside the Mole, rolling and bumping against its foundation, she was swept diagonally by machine guns from both ends of the Mole and by heavy batteries ashore. The landing parties of Marines and Blue jockeys were gathered on the main and lower decks. Their commanders had both been killed before the word for the assault had been given but the men were magnificent. They had to rush across aways, splintering gangways and drop over the parapet into a field of fire from German machine guns. Then there was a further drop of sixteen feet on to the Mole itself, but nothing stopped arduously and speedily landing. The storming and demolition parties on the Mole met with no resistance apart from the intense and unrelenting fire, the Germans having, on the approach of the ships, retired to the shore end of the Mole. The demolition parties carried out their work in perfect order, destroying buildings after building. Meanwhile the blockships were steaming up to the mouth of the canal. The Thetis came first, steaming into a tornado of shells from shore batteries. The bulk of the crew had already been taken off unfortunately the propeller fouled the net of defences and rendered her unmanageable. The shore battery pounded and she found herself sinking still a hundred yards from the mouth of the canal. After signalling invaluable information the Commander drew the charges and sank her.

LORD WIMBORNE.

London, April 26.

It is rumoured that Lord Wimborne, Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, is retiring.

PROMINENT SENIOR MINISTER DEPORTED.

London, April 26.

Mr. Dymally Lynch, the San Fein Food Director, has been deported from Ireland, probably to America.

NEW MINISTER OF AIR FORCES.

London, April 26.

Sir William Wair is mentioned as successor to Lord Rothermere.

REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.

GERMANY'S AFRICAN ASPIRATIONS.

The Central Africa Scheme.

London, April 25.

Reuter's correspondent at Zurich states that Hans Meyer, Professor of Colonial Geography at Leipzig, has published an important work on the Portuguese Colonial Empire, in which he demands that at the conclusion of peace Germany should seize Portugal's colonies in order to build up Germany's African possessions. He says:—"Germany's greatest Colonial peace aim must be the construction of a united Central Africa, resting on the four pillars of Togoland, Cameroons, East Africa and South-West Africa, stretching from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean and taking in intermediate enemy territory, thus forming with the old colonies a solid continental block. How far French West Africa and British territory in East and West Africa, should be included will depend on the further course of the war." Continuing Professor Hans Meyer states that German Central Africa could not exist without a strong chain of naval stations in which would be included St. Thomas, Portuguese Guinea, Madeira and the Azores. These would afford extra-ordinarily important outposts for controlling world traffic. The writer forebodes determined Allied and American opposition, but concludes that Germany must take by force what she requires for realising her world political aims.

BRITAIN'S MUNITIONS.

Continuation of Mr. Churchill's Statement.

London, April 25.

Continuing his speech in the House of Commons on munitions, Mr. Churchill paid a warm tribute to the work of the three quarters of a million women munitioners, to whom nineteenth of the whole manufacture of shells was due. We are now turning out more aeroplanes per week than the whole of 1914, more per month than 1915, more per quarter than 1916 and the output in 1918 would be several times the output of 1917. The quality had in every way improved. He confidently anticipated supremacy in our air service among the Allies and an increased superiority over the enemy. Regarding poisonous gas the officers concerned with it told him that undoubtedly our gases killed more Germans than German gases had killed our men, but the German irritant gases inflicted more casualties of a comparatively transient nature. Our gas masks were the best in the world. We supplied them by the million not only to our own men but to the Italians and had large stores available for the Americans. We were now producing guns as rapidly as they could be forged. We would have sufficient guns in 1918 to fire more than all the ammunition we could manufacture. All the great armies in the later stage of this war would be fully supplied with guns and shells, but gunners would be the limited factor in artillery development. Thus there was ground for believing that the German's capture of guns would not be so much due to them as some were of the opinion. In conclusion Mr. Churchill said:—"Look where you will you will not get at the bottom of the resources of Great Britain. No demand is too sudden to be met; no need is too unexpected to be supplied, no strain is too prolonged for the patience of our people, and no suffering can daunt our hearts." (Cheers)

PETROGRAD'S FOOD SITUATION CRITICAL.

London, April 26.

A Russian wireless official message states:—"A notice addressed to Council Deputies in corn provinces says:—"The food situation in Petrograd is again critical. Only one day's supplies are available, and urgently asks for help."

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

THE ENEMY'S NEW OFFENSIVE.

Heavy Fighting at Villers-Bretonneux.

London, April 25.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports: The heavy fighting all night long in and around Villers-Bretonneux continues on the regained ground. In counter-attacks we took a number of prisoners. The fighting on the whole of this front was most severe. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy by the infantry and tanks. The enemy was thrice repulsed with loss. Northward of the Villers-Bretonneux-St. Quentin road he used a few tanks in this fighting. Also, late last night he attacked the French north-eastward of Baillieu and was repulsed. The enemy early this morning renewed his attacks in this sector and on the British positions farther east after an intense bombardment. Fighting continues in this sector on a wide front. The enemy at night time attempted a raid in the neighbourhood of Beuville and was repulsed. Hostile artillery was active at night time in the Festubert and Robecq sectors.

How the Battle Proceeds.

London, April 26.

Reuter's correspondent at British Headquarters, wiring on the 26th, says: There was heavy and continuous fighting yesterday in the region of Mont Kemmel and Metereen, astride the Amiens-St. Quentin road. The fighting around Villers-Bretonneux lasting throughout the night is still in progress. From the direction of Hangard the Germans got a footing in Bois d'Aquenne, the easternmost of a "little chain" of woods skirting the Amiens Road. West of Bretonneux we counter-attacked and drove back the enemy to the fringe of the wood. The latest news this morning is distinctly encouraging. We have retaken ground at several places and the general position is considerably improved. In the Bretonneux fighting tanks were used by both sides. Ours did well in support of the infantry. Two got among the Germans and did great execution. The enemy launched a very heavy attack against the French in the region of Dranoutre last night, penetrating a section of the French front line. The French promptly counter-attacked and restored the position. At two o'clock this morning an intense gas barrage was opened against the French front in Flanders, also against some of our troops acting with them. About two hours later deep waves of infantry delivered an assault. Fighting is still in progress. The enemy was beaten off in various minor attacks.

(Continued on page 5.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

(The opinions expressed by correspondents are not necessarily those of the "Hongkong Telegraph.")

SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE.

(To the Editor of the "Hongkong Telegraph.")

Dear Sir,—The Committee of the Society of St. George desire to thank the following for their kind services in helping to bring about the success of the Tombola.

Mr. Chopard of the A. for House Hotel for use of his premises as a Store and also for the most willing assistance on numerous occasions. His unflinching tact and help as well as his generous action is much appreciated.

Messrs. Lane Crawford and Co. for receiving Gifts.

Mr. Hurley for arranging and displaying Prizes.

Messrs. Alex. Ross and Co. for loan of bunting.

The Hongkong Electric Co. for fixing light.

The China and Japan Telephone Co. for installing Telephone.

The Hongkong Hotel and Astor House Hotel for loan of Treadles.

The Army Ordnance Dept. for loan of Flags, Screens, Chairs, etc.

Messrs. Cheong Lee for assisting to arrange Store.

Messrs. Weing Hong for use of furniture for the drawing of Prizes.

Special thanks are also due to the Military and Police Authorities for the special arrangements they so kindly made which relieved the workers of much anxiety and in a great measure ensured the satisfactory running of the Tombola Store.

In conclusion the Committee's heartiest thanks are tendered to the Press for the special interest they evinced in the Tombola and the extra advertising facilities which were so frequently and generously afforded.

Yours faithfully,

J. BENTLEY.

Hongkong, April 26.

ST. GEORGE'S DAY FUND.

The Committee beg to acknowledge with thanks, receipt of the undernoted donations:—

Balance as per last statement... \$5,408.17

"Lucky Dip" at French Convent... 155

Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd., total proceeds of dinners served in Grill Room on St. George's Day... 591.50

Proceeds of doll filled by Miss Midge Crappell... 125

Proceeds of handbags R. filled by Mrs. A. E. Crappell... 70

Mrs. Digby... 10

Proceeds of sale of veils per Mrs. Flint... 1475

Part proceeds of Mrs. Skelton's sale of work and raffia... 300

\$6,674.42

J. F. BAKESAY,

Hon. Treasurer, Hongkong St. George's Day Fund.

26th April, 1918.

DONT FORGET.

TO-DAY.

Dog, Cat and Poultry Show—Happy Valley.

Theatre Royal. "The Witness for the Defence"—9.15 p.m.

Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.

Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.

New Hongkong Cinema—9.15 p.m.

TO-MORROW.

Victoria Theatre—9.15 p.m.

Bijou Theatre—9.15 p.m.

New Hongkong Cinema—9.15 p.m.

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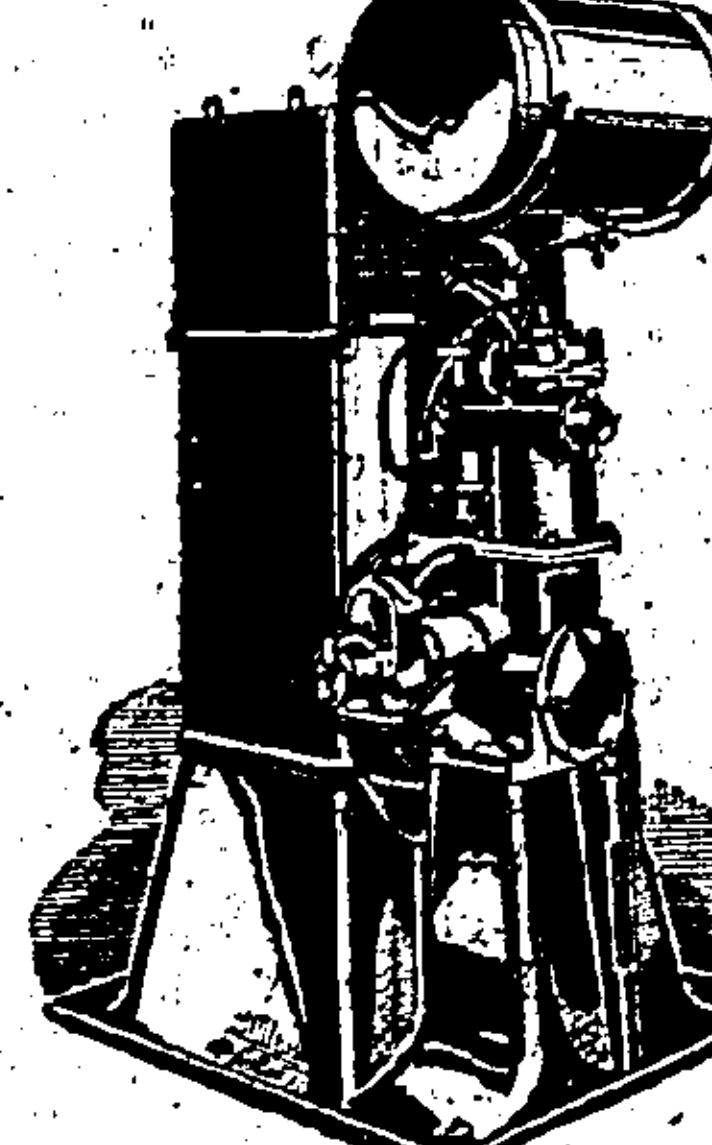
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GENERAL NEWS.

Value of Character Forming.

The Lord Mayor, presiding at a meeting of the London Scouts' Council of the Boy Scouts' Association, which was held at the Mansion House to inaugurate a public appeal for funds, said that the value of the movement to the boys themselves was immeasurable, and their mental, moral, and physical development, was one of the most gratifying things of modern life. Colonel Lord Dunsborough said that the creation of the Scout movement was one of the greatest modern touches of genius in the way of character forming known for many years past. There were now 800,000 Scouts, and the value of the character-forming among those boys was clear in view of the fact that the prime of the manhood of the country were laying down their lives on the battlefield. Major-General Lord Chaylesmore said the watchword of the Scouts was "Honour," the watchword of England. It was for the honour of the nation that we were fighting the bloodiest war in history. We were fighting for the pledged word of England. In the future the honour of England would be entrusted to those boys who were learning the principles of honour now.

A Browning First Edition.

The rarest "lot" in the sale at at Sotheby's of the late Joseph Hornstein's stock of books was a fine copy of the exceedingly rare first edition of R. Browning's "Pauline; a fragment of a Confession," 1833, in the original boards with a label, of which only a very few copies are known. This fell to Messrs. Maggs at £310. The most formidable lot was a very extensive collection in eight folio volumes of the works of James Gillray (1757-1815), the famous caricaturist; it comprised more than 800 engravings, chiefly political and historical coloured caricatures, but with several portraits, sporting, social, and fancy prints, and a few original drawings, arranged in chronological order. These were bought by Mr. Robson for £255. An uncopied copy of "Pierres Egales," "Brixiana," 1812-29, both series, £20, (Spencer); a fine copy of Egan's "Finish to the Adventures of Tom, Jerry, and Logie," 1830, with 36 plates by R. Cruikshank, £37 (F. Sabin); Dean Swift's copy of T. Carlyle's "History of the Life of James, Duke of Ormonde," 1736, £50 (Sharp); and "W. Daniell and R. Aytton's "A Voyage round Great Britain" (1814-25), 368 coloured plates in eight folio volumes, £68 (Bain). The total of the day amounted to £2,258 7s.

Waste Made An Offence.

Under the Waste of Foodstuffs Order, 1918, which comes into force to-day, (says the Times of February 28) it is made an offence for a person to waste any foodstuffs or permit it to be wasted. The definition of waste is given as follows:—(a) Whenever the foodstuff, being fit for use as human food, is wilfully or negligently damaged, or is thrown away; or (b) Whenever any person having the control or custody of the foodstuff omits to take any precaution which ought reasonably to be taken for its preservation; or (c) Whenever a person procures for any purpose a greater quantity of foodstuff than is reasonably required for such purpose, and any part of such foodstuff becomes unfit for human food; or (d) Whenever any person having the disposal of the foodstuff unnecessarily retains the same undispensed of, and the same becomes unfit for human food. An exception is made in the case of trade waste, not arising from want of due care, where the trader has been ready to sell foodstuff at a reasonable price, and could not reasonably have made it available for human food otherwise than by way of sale. Any person authorised in writing by the Food Controller may enter premises where he has reason to believe that foodstuff is being wasted, and may take samples. The Food Controller has made an order requiring all persons who have possession or control, and persons who are signers of permits, to take every precaution to prevent their being wasted by first and last.

GENERAL NEWS.

Opium Dens in Liverpool.

Forty Chinese were remanded at Liverpool charged with keeping various premises for opium smoking, or with frequenting such premises. The police in a raid found many opium pipes and large quantities of opium.

German War Finance.

Amsterdam, Feb. 26.—During the Budget debate, the Secretary of the Imperial Treasury, Count Ender, said:—"My financial statement can be brief, as no funds for war costs are asked in the Budget. The extra requirement of 2,875 millions (£143,750,000) as compared with the previous year, is mainly due to increased interest on loans." The yield from the war profits tax, with the additional levy, would exceed five and a half milliards (£275,000,000). The coal tax brought in £3,500,000 monthly. He hoped in consequence of the votes of recent years to emerge from the war without uncovered deficits. Fresh taxation proposals would be laid before the Reichstag by Easter. Whether they represented the first step in the extensive financial legislation made necessary by the war or whether they might again be interim legislation for the duration of the war was still uncertain, but in any case the enemy on the West front would not be left in doubt as to Germany's will and power, financially to stand the final battle on this front to.

German Poles in England.

It has been decided by the Government that Poles resident in this country who are technically of German or Austrian nationality, but whose sympathies are friendly to Great Britain, may, for the future, be treated as alien friends. By an Order in Council under the Aliens Restriction Act, made on February 5, the Home Secretary has power to grant a certificate of exemption from the provisions of the Aliens Restriction Order, except such as apply to alien friends, to any alien enemy who, by a certificate from the Polish National Committee, or otherwise, satisfies him that he is by race a Pole, and is well disposed towards the Allies. The Polish National Committee was constituted in August, 1917, with headquarters in Paris and representatives in London, Rome, Washington, and Bern, and has been officially recognized by the Government. The London office is at 2, Upper Montague street, Russell-square, and Poles who desire to apply for a certificate of exemption should communicate with the committee. The certificate of the committee may be applied for by Russian Poles as well as by those of German or Austrian nationality, and will be accepted by the British authorities in proper cases in lieu of a national passport.

Newspaper Ownership.

Lord Burnham, who presided recently at the annual meeting of the Newspaper Press Fund, offered congratulations on the success of last year's dinner, when £5,500 was realized. The income for the year was £9,190, and the expenditure £3,450, and the council had invested £2,850 in War Loans. Three new pensions had been granted during the year, 47 were being paid, and the total grant exceeded £8,000. Twenty-two of the members of the fund had been killed in action or had died of wounds. No profession had proved itself better in the war than their own. The Press had yielded the best of their young men, and they had all earned credit and honour. When the Press was discussed in public, said Lord Burnham, he noticed a great want of sense of proportion, which at times almost became ridiculous. If a gentleman who had made a fortune in commerce suddenly became a shareholder in a newspaper he immediately loomed out as a Press magnate supposed to possess mysterious power, and was represented as making a tremendous effect on the public mind. The whole thing made sense in the know smile, as they knew in many cases that the acquisition of these shares in a newspaper meant no more than the purchase of shares in any other business concern.

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GENERAL NEWS.

Health in the Army.

Addressing the men at the Lambeth Auxiliary Hospital, Dulwich, Lieut. General S. Francis Lloyd, C.O., commanding the London District, said in this war there was a lower percentage of deaths from disease than in any other war. No man died whose life could possibly have been saved. Enteric had been absolutely nil.

Italian Company's Trade with Germany.

Milan, Feb. 26.—The accusations made in Parliament last week by Signor Protti against certain firms suspected of trading with the enemy have led to two arrests at Milan. Commendatore Bopasessa and Cuccochi, directors of the Filatura Casale di Seta (Silk Waste Spinnery), are accused of commerce with the enemy which in 1916 alone realised a profit of 20,000,000 (£2,000,000). It appears that the office which the company had established at Zurich at the beginning of the war in order to realise credits which it had in Germany for pre-war exportations had been gradually transformed into an agency for supplying Germany. Another company, capitalised by the Filatura Casale di Seta, operated for Austria. These arrests are received with satisfaction by the Lombard industrial

classes, who have from the beginning contributed so generously and loyally to the cause of the war. The Late Sir H. Blake. In the Times obituary notice of the late Sir H. Blake, a former Governor of Hongkong, it is stated that during the present war he took an active interest in the organisation of Red Cross work in Ireland. He put his great knowledge of the world and of Ireland into several publications, including a work on China and "Pictures from Ireland," by Terence McGrath. "He was a great contributor to the Press, and letters over his signature have frequently appeared in the Times. The time may soon come when brilliant Irishmen like Sir Henry Blake will be able to devote their whole careers to their own country. Sir Henry's qualities as an administrator were recognised by all classes in Ireland, and during the closing years of his life he was a considerable influence in local affairs. In politics he was a strong and hard-hitting Unionist, but his opinions did not impair his popularity. He gave invaluable service to the cause of Southern Unionism, but owing to his declining health the Irish Convention was deprived during the greater part of its sittings of the help of his immense knowledge of Colonial systems of government."

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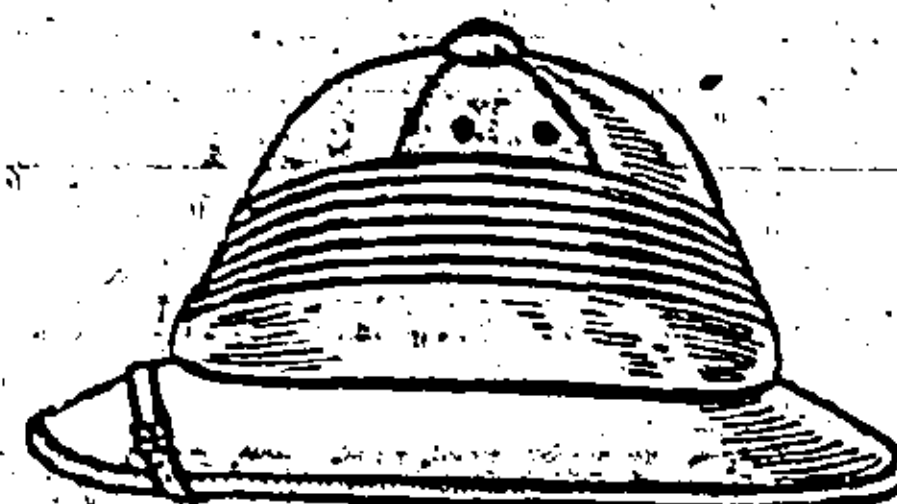
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Hongkong, 15th January, 1917.

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M. MANUE,

Secretary.

Dated 4th day of April, 1918.

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The rates of Subscription to the "Hongkong Telegraph" will be as follows:—Daily issue—\$30 per annum. Weekly issue—\$15 per annum.

The rates per quarter and per annum, proportional. Subscriptions for any period less than one month will be charged as for a full month.

The daily issue is delivered free when the addressee is accessible to messenger. Peak subscribers can have their copies delivered at their residences without any extra charge. Copies sent by post an additional \$1.80 per quarter is charged for postage.

The postage on the weekly issue to any part of the world is \$1.00 per quarter. Single Copies, Daily, ten cents. Weekly, twenty-five cents (for cash only).

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until countermanded. (Payable in Advance.)

The "Hongkong Telegraph" is now on sale at, and will be delivered to subscribers by, the Dairy Farm Company, Ltd., Shamshien, Canton, who have been appointed our agents there. By Order, "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 1918.

EUROPEAN NEUTRALS AND THE WAR.

We have from time to time referred to the position which neutral countries of Europe occupy in consequence of the great upheaval of the past four years. It cannot be doubted that these countries have had their own particular problems with which to deal. It is not without interest to speculate on the position of neutrals in the highly improbable event of Germany being able to extend her borders in Europe as she would like to do. Neutrals know how difficult their position has been in the war. It would be far more difficult were peace to leave Germany stronger than hitherto in Europe. Germany, if she did create her great European block, would of course proclaim once again that, now that she had what she wanted, her interest was peace, and that she would treat her neighbours decently. It would not last, any more than it lasted after 1871.

We hear much at the moment of annexationists and anti-annexationists in Germany. But we see no genuine anti-annexationists except the Minority Socialists; Brest-Litovsk has shown this plainly enough. There is no difference as to the end, but only as to the means. General Hoffmann would annex Poland and Lithuania by direct means; Herr von Kuhlmann hopes to annex them by indirect means. That is all. There is a passage in Kuhlmann's "Europe" speech, delivered in the Main Committee of the Reichstag on September 28th, which bears very strongly on what we have said. "I do not," he said, "say too much in affirming that for none of the States in this ancient Europe (i.e. Europe before the war) was the situation as it had existed for the past 40 years, so unbearable that it must be upset at the risk of self-destruction." Can there be any graver indictment of the Germany which forced this war on the world?

For, once formed, the Central European block would do all in its power to secure the neutral States. It would not necessarily be by conquest; military conquest may not be the form the future will take. But Germany has got to secure new fields for her commerce, for in the circumstances we have assumed she would have the greatest difficulty in restoring her overseas trade; and the neutral States would be very necessary to her as substitutes. She would of course try the power of attraction; and we need not underrate the attraction—the gravitational pull—of the vast Central block. We know what form it would take. The suggestion would be that Germany was the champion of "Europe" against Anglo-Saxons, and that all European neutrals stand together in own interest; that Germany in fact stood for Europe, for an United States of Europe, as against the outer world. We need not ask which idea the neutral States would be likely to find more attractive, that of Germany or that of the Entente; for they would have little choice. A western orientation might indeed be within the power of Norway, for geographical reasons, since her only communication with Germany is by sea. For the same reason it might be within the power of Spain to decide whether she really wished to be a German half way house to South America or not. But Holland, Switzerland, Denmark, and Sweden, with land frontiers to the Central block (which would include Finland), would have practically no choice at all.

The Appeal to the Dominions.

In view of the recent controversy on the man-power question in the Colony the appeal which has been made recently in the form of a message from the British Premier to the Prime Ministers of the Dominions, stating that it is proposed to ask Parliament to authorize immediate measures for the raising of fresh forces, should prove of deep interest. It must be mentioned that the appeal is made to Europeans only. It goes to show the importance that men should be secured without delay from all parts of the British Empire. A noteworthy point in the appeal is that the Premier clearly states that the struggle is only opening and that none should think that what even the remotest dominions can do now can be too late. It is significantly added that before the campaign is finished the last man may count. This appeal was published in the Straits Settlements Gazette, and one could have wished that it had been given full publicity in Hongkong. It might have helped those who are wavering, or think that perhaps the war would be over by the time they reached home, to make up their minds, and realize that any services they might render would not be too late.

A Decided Nuisance.

The proud possessor of a police whistle, who thought it good fun to stand upon Hung Hom Wharf at midnight yesterday and blow away to his heart's content, fully deserved the fine which was inflicted upon him by Mr. Dyer Bill at the Police Court yesterday, and we hope that it is a lesson that will be taken to heart by other Chinese in the Colony. The possession of a police whistle seems one of the finest things on earth to many, and on the slightest provocation—and often with out any—they will blow away as though the whistle's very noise was a safeguard against harm. It is mainly youths who are the offenders and not a few times have we heard the sound of a whistle and upon investigation found that it is only some youngster demonstrating his superior luck over his companions. Yesterday's case, if not the first of its kind, is certainly the first for a very long time, and we sincerely hope that the police will take the opportunity of proceeding against offenders in this respect whenever it is necessary.

The Air Ministry Muddle.

Almost from the first day of Lord Rothermere's appointment as head of the Air Ministry, matters seem to have gone astray in the governance of what is one of the most vital arms of the British forces, and it is not with any great regret that we learn of the resignation of this apparently hard-to-please individual. The first intimation that we had of trouble was when it was announced that Colonel Trenchard, one of the men who have worked with enthusiasm and ability to make the Air Service what it is, had found it impossible to work under the new chief, and there must have been quite a good deal of heart burning at home at the loss of so brilliant an airman and organizer. Yesterday news came through of Sir Arthur R. H. H. the Financial Adviser of the Ministry, upon precisely the same grounds, only to be followed by the news that Lord Rothermere had himself resigned upon the grounds of ill health. It is not hard to discern that the department has had stormy times, and it is encouraging to know that the men who found it impossible to work together have made room for another selection. We shall be heartily supported in expressing the hope that Colonel Trenchard's services will be retained, for his record is such as to demand his active participation in the effort to maintain that supremacy of the air which the Allies now enjoy. There have, unfortunately, been too many instances of an unsatisfactory appointment to a Ministry leading to a loss of valued help, and if Colonel Trenchard and his associates are to be lost by reason of an ill-considered and impossible selection, the nation will have a right to voice its complaint against those responsible.

DAY BY DAY.

A COQUETTE IS A ROSE FROM WHICH EVERY LOVER PICKS A LEAF AND THE THORNS ARE LEFT FOR THE HUSBAND.

Monday's Anniversary.

Monday's anniversary is that of the death of Shirley Brooks, a famous Editor of Punch, born in 1816.

The Dollar.

The opening rate of the dollar on demand to-day was 3s. 3d.

Sir Robert Ho Tung.

Sir Robert Ho Tung left Hongkong to-day on a short visit to America.

An Additional Chemist.

The name of Mr. Knud Burge Grass, of the Pharmacy, has been added to the list of registered chemists and druggists.

Catholic Exercises.

We are informed by Bishop Pozzani that the exercises for the month of May in the Catholic Cathedral will commence at 6 p.m.

The Army Act.

The Government Gazette announces that the application of the Army Act will be extended to the local forces for three months from May 3.

"The Witness for the Defence." The last performance of "The Witness for the Defence" takes place to-night at 9.15 p.m. at the Theatre Royal. Those who appreciate an absorbingly interesting play, well acted and staged, should not miss this opportunity.

Lieutenant C. W. Hodgins, Captain A. E. Hodgins of the Haitian and Mrs. Hodgins, Hongkong Hotel, have received a cable which states that their son, Lieut. O. W. Hodgins, 5th Gordons, is now reported a prisoner of war, unwounded. They heard about a month ago that he was missing.

Spotted Fever.

For the twenty-four hours ended April 26 only six cases of spotted fever were notified. Four of these were from the City of Victoria, the rest being from other districts. Five deaths are recorded, all the sufferers being Chinese.

New Examination Officer.

It is notified that the Commodore has appointed Lieutenant Frederick Medway, R.N., to be Officer in charge of the Examination Service during the absence of Lieutenant Edward Terence Johns, R.N.R., with effect from the 23rd April, 1918.

Theft of a Watch.

A Chinese was charged before Mr. E. D. O. Wolfe, at the Police Court this morning, with stealing a gold watch and chain. It was stated that defendant, who was a servant at a club, took the articles from a table and was later met when going into a pawnshop to sell the goods. His Worship sent him to prison for three weeks' hard labour.

St. Stephen's College Sports.

The annual athletic sports of St. Stephen's College took place at Happy Valley yesterday afternoon with every success. There was a very large number of events and the racing seen was in many cases close and extremely interesting. All the officials connected with the College are deserving of compliments for the manner in which the long programme was got through. During the afternoon refreshments were served, and the band of the 18th Infantry played an enjoyable programme of music.

Story of a Revolver.

A young Chinese woman was charged by an Annamite with whom she has been living, with stealing a revolver belonging to him. Complaint was made that she had spoken English, gave his evidence in French. His Worship acting as his own interpreter. Defendant said complainant had fired at her once, and when she took it from him he told her to throw it into the Harbour. Instead she told him she would give it to his older brother, which he did. A search of her person very unsatisfactory evidence was obtained by His Worship that she would have to be very careful or he would drop her for lying. He would not go so far as to say that the story of the theft was made up but he did not believe a great deal of it. Defendant was discharged.

How a Fire was Averted.

May 4.—A rather good story is told of an enterprising Chinese in this colony who some little time ago insured his house and effects for five or six thousand dollars. The neighbours, of course, heard of this little transaction and as they were not similarly insured and being fearful of the consequences they decided to do something to insure themselves. They got together, to grip together, to irrigate and gladden, enjoy a symposium, to hit the palate, to take a wet, to leave the torrids, to hug the liver, to guggle, imbibe, absorb or get outside of.

1893.

HONGKONG TWENTY-FIVE YEARS GO.

(Compiled from the "Hongkong Telegraph" files for the week ending May 4, 1893.)

The Dollar.

April 28.—The rate of the dollar on demand to-day is 2s. 8d.

The Water Service.

April 28.—A coolie was fined \$10 by the Magistrate to-day for wasting water by neglecting to turn off a stop cock when a trap broke. Of course, it is right enough to punish waste of water; but how about the hundreds or thousands of people who never get any water to waste or to use? They have to pay up just the same as if they got it, and they ought to insist on getting it, or, like the Cornishmen, "know the reason why."

Foochow Tea Market.

May 1.—The Foochow tea market "up country" was expected to open on or about April 29th. Prices are expected to rule eight-hundredths higher than last season, and the quality of the tea is said to be much better than for years past. The fact that 17 lakhs of dollars have been sent up to the tea growing districts, an increase of four lakhs compared with the amount forwarded in 1892, is regarded as a healthy sign.

Congratulations!

May 1.—The office of the Hongkong Telegraph has simply been flooded to-day by letters of congratulation from the friends and sympathizers of Mr. Fraser-Smith, particularly in connection with the policy which he has pursued regarding the Hongkong Jockey Club. In the absence of that gentleman, the acting Editor has but to express his sincere thanks for these well meant tokens of regard.

Origin of China's Postal Service.

May 2.—Our Shanghai morning contemporary learns that telegraphic intelligence has been received from Peking stating that Sir Robert Hart's memorial to the Tsungli Yamen for the establishment of a Government Post Office for the transmission of letters and parcels throughout the Chinese Empire and Western countries has received the sanction of the Throne; but that no edict will be issued at present until all the arrangements for the working of this important and much desired department shall have been perfected.

A P. & O. Record.

May 2.—The P. & O. steamer Oriental arrived in the harbour last night, anchoring about 8.20 p.m. (not 6.30 as the Daily Press of course, erroneously stated) thus breaking the record (Peninsular's) for quickest mail time between London and Hongkong, and also beating her own record, the best previously made, from Singapore. The total mail time from London (Friday night, April 7th) to Hongkong (Monday May 1st) was 24 days and 7 minutes; but the difference in local time reduces this to 23 days and 17 hours. Her time from Singapore was 3 days, 22 hours, 25 minutes. Her best previous time was 4 days and 1 hour. The average rate at which this mail was brought out is a little over 15 knots for the whole distance, including stoppages; and for the first time in the history of mail contracts to the Far East, the English mail has reached Hongkong before the French mail, due a week earlier. The Oriental brings a large number of passengers, mostly from Shanghai. It is noteworthy that a number of them, even in this dismal flood weather, seem fearfully afraid of sunstroke to judge by their hats!

Drink.

May 3.—The scholars of the China Coast have agreed that the word "drink" is used too often and that the monotony of its repetition should be done away with. A substitute or synonym, they suggest the following:—To tip the student; to guggle; to grip together; to irrigate and gladden; enjoy a symposium; to hit the palate; to take a wet; to leave the torrids; to hug the liver; to guggle, imbibe, absorb or get outside of.

WOMEN SOLICITORS.

A Sign of the Times.

It is an interesting commentary on the times that a legislative measure giving the women of the United Kingdom greater privileges in connection with the legal profession should have passed the third reading of the House of Lords before it was deemed by Ruler worth telegraphing to the East. In normal days such legislation would have been regarded as epoch-making but to-day it is dismissed as a very inadequate telegram. Ruler speaks of a Bill "enabling women to become solicitors." Unfortunately, we have no details of the projected measure, but obviously it must go further than Ruler's telegram suggests. In 1908 a special tribunal of the House of Lords, presided over by the Lord Chancellor, decided not to admit women to the English Bar on the grounds that there was no precedent and that they were not desirous of creating it, but large numbers of women have been in the habit of taking degrees in law in the British universities and several have become solicitors, though, of course, they have not been given the privilege of practising in the court. No doubt it is this privilege that is about to be conceded, thus bringing the women of Great Britain in line with the women of America, France and some other countries. In the United States, for instance, women have long practised law, and in 1898 the benches of the Ontario Law Society decided to admit them to the bar. In France, in December, 1900, an Act was passed enabling women to practise as barristers, and Madame Petit was sworn in Paris, while a woman was briefed for the defence in a murder case in Toulouse in 1903, this being the first case of a woman pleading in a European criminal court. In Finland and Norway women have long practised as barristers, and in Denmark since 1908 they have been admitted as assistants to lawyers. By the law of the Netherlands they are admitted as notaries.

To favour the breath and to change the favour of the breath;
To liquefy, fluidise, ingurgitate or moisten;
To expand the waist; to drown the snakes;
To raise the diaphragm; to see Aquarius;
To use a buccalare, dentilave or irrigant;
To lubricate the oesophagus; to gently trickle;
To scrub the stomach; to lay the dust;
To dilute the bile or dissolve the cobwebs of the inner sun;
To crook the knee, bend the elbow; to empty a bowl;
Use a glass daskly, grs upon the wine;
Worship Bacchus, rebuke Silenus; console Cambrion;
Take Highland draw, tip the decanter;
Use the flying, destroy drought, flit the back teeth;
Or give the microbes a swim;
To suck the gossamer, pull the cock, open a flask;
Turn the faucet, or monkey with a bunghole;
To irrigate, defecate, make, or irrigate;
To toy with the rosy, to dally with a bottle;
To pump in ballet, make stances of ourselves;
Play tank, drive nails in our coffin;
Pour libations to Lethe and offer oblations to John Barleycorn.

Many of these obsolete phrases are now employed by the *jeunes dames* of the F.R.S.
How a Fire was Averted.
May 4.—A rather good story is told of an enterprising Chinese in this colony who some little time ago insured his house and effects for five or six thousand dollars. The neighbours, of course, heard of this little transaction and as they were not similarly insured and being fearful of the consequences they decided to do something to insure themselves. They got together, to grip together, to irrigate and gladden, enjoy a symposium, to hit the palate, to take a wet, to leave the torrids, to hug the liver, to guggle, imbibe, absorb or get outside of.

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TO-DAY'S MISCELLANY.

Sir Arthur Sullivan was once mistaken for J. L. Sullivan during a tour in California. The composer broke his journey at a mining camp, and when the miners heard of his arrival they went to the camp hotel to welcome him. Selecting the biggest member of Sir Arthur's party, the miners' spokesman went up to him and asked, "Are you Mr. Sullivan?" "No," said the big man, pointing to Sir Arthur; whereupon the miner, looking puzzled, pointed inquired of the musician his weight. "About 162 lb.," was the reply. "Do you mean to say you gave John Blackmore fits in Kansas?" "No," smilingly answered Sir Arthur, "I didn't give him fits."

When it was explained who the visitor was, "Oh!" exclaimed the spokesman, "the man that put 'Pinfire' together! Well, we're sorry you ain't J. L., but all the same we're glad to see you, anyway. Let's have a drink."

Are you quite sure that you would like to be out of the war at any price? Here is an extract from a letter from one who is in Tristan da Cunha:

We have no shops at Tristan, and have to depend on passing vessels for all necessities. It was a day of gladness to us all when the whaling steamer brought the mail from England and all small gifts were very useful and much appreciated, and thank you very much for your kindness, and please thank all kind friends for theirs, for they came in the time most needed, when we had given up all hopes of hearing of the terrible war that was going on. I hope before this letter reaches you (it was written last February) "all will be peace."

There are not yet then—106 people on Tristan; many of them children.

The action of the Italian Government which caused a postponement of the sale of the Medici archives at Christie's on Monday is a reminder that the law prohibiting the exportation of artistic treasures from Italy is very strictly enforced. It is occasionally evaded, however. A French artist a few years ago, spending a holiday in Italy, acquired for a trifling painting which his practiced eye told him was a genuine Titian. The difficulty of getting it through the Customs at the frontier he solved by lightly painting over it an excellent portrait of King Victor Emmanuel. Safe in Paris with his prize, the artist set about cleaning the King's portrait off the underlying Titian. It came off without any trouble, but so did the Titian, bringing to light a striking picture of Garibaldi in his famous red shirt!

The Gothes have, it seems, had a quite unexpected effect on the dreamers of Paris. A leading artist has confessed to an interviewer that he has nearly been worried to death ever since the last attack by his customers, who insist on having a special dress for possible visits to shelters. He has, he claims, solved the problem by the invention of "Cellar Gown." It is a kind of domino, he says, but it has what the domino has not, a number of serviceable pockets in which a lady can stow her jewel-case, some food, and more indispensable "adjuncts to the toilet." The difficulties of the inventor were increased by his desire to make something which would not come under the definition of a "luxurious luxury" under the new schedule.

A Junk-Owner's Complaint.
A Chinese woman owner of a fishing junk has reported to the Police that while her boat was on the way from Ping Chan Island to Sang Shan Wan, she was waylaid by six men in a fishing boat. They were armed with rifles. They boarded her junk and pulled it into Chiapsee waters where they removed 10 pounds of fish and \$30 worth of salt, and took various articles of clothing.

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T. 13,500 {May, at 11 a.m.

SHANGHAI, MOJI & KOBE *Nikko Maru {SATUR, 15th

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SHANGHAI, MOJI & KOBE *Ceylon Maru {MONDAY,

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SHIPPING NEWS.

Death of "Deas Cromarty."

Mrs. Robert A. Watson, better known as "Deas Cromarty," died at Newport, R.I., recently after an illness extending over two years. Mrs. Watson was the daughter of the Rev. John Fletcher, a Wesleyan minister, and came into prominence as a writer by her contributions to the "British Weekly," to which journal she had been a contributor for many years. She also published a series of novels, and collaborated with her husband, the Rev. Dr. R. A. Watson, a minister of the United Free Church of Scotland, in their literary work.

Transport to Scotland.

The Secretary for Scotland has appointed a committee, with Sir T. Carraw, M.P., as chairman, to consider and report on—(a) The rural areas in Scotland which are most in need of transport facilities for the promotion of agriculture, forestry and other rural industries; (b) the means of improving communication in these areas, with special reference to new or improved roads, light and narrow gauge railways and motor transport, including any consequential modification of existing steamer service.

Two British Vessels Lost.

The British steamer *Reidar*, of 1,333 tons, built in 1881, is reported to have foundered through striking a rock. The crew were saved, except the master. The *Reidar* was managed for the Shipping Controller by Messrs. Whitfield, Kendrick, and Co., Lloyd's Agent at Reykjavik telegraphs that the British schooner *Oscendo*, of 229 tons, has been totally lost off the south coast of Iceland. Four of the crew—three Russians and one Englishman—were drowned. The Russian captain and an American were saved.

Admiralty Publicity Scheme.

The Admiralty has embarked on a scheme of greater publicity among the artisans engaged on the work of construction. Staff Paymaster Collingwood Hughes, R.N.V.R., of the Intelligence Department of the Admiralty, addressed a meeting of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Association of Foremen Engineers and Draughtsmen at Glasgow recently. He said that at the beginning of the war we possessed about 30 ships designed exclusively for warlike purposes, whereas at present we had 300 such ships. In naval personnel we had 150,000 officers and men when the war started, and that number had been increased threefold.

Ships for Food First.

The situation created by the partial paralysis of the American railways and the consequent check to the shipment of thousands of tons of foodstuffs for the Allies was among the urgent matters discussed at the recent Inter-Allied Conference at Paris. The emergency measures taken in America since then give promise of relieving the situation, which, however, still causes anxiety. The increasing rigour of the blockade, while it is unquestionably effective in relation to the enemy, still further curtails the export of food from the neutral countries to Great Britain, and it has followed, therefore, that the United Kingdom has become in the main dependent for its food supplies on the United States and Canada. The War Cabinet, after prolonged consideration, have now decided that food shall have priority over all other war demands in the allocation of shipping. The whole of the exportable butter surplus of Australia and New Zealand has been purchased in the hope of obtaining the necessary tonnage to transport it; but temporary, at any rate, until the expanding output of home-produced margarine has been further developed, it is improbable that the supplies will permit of more than half the normal consumption of butter and margarine combined. The period of shortage, however, should not be prolonged. In the opinion of the leading physiological authorities the restrictions rendered necessary by shortage of supply and tonnage should not be detrimental to national health or efficiency. Compulsory rationing implies no danger of starvation or anything approaching starvation. Supplies necessary to the national physique are assured so far as anything can be assured in the chances of war. The German weekly ration is 3½ lbs. of fats and 9oz. of meat, as compared with our 4oz. of butter or margarine (exclusive of other fats) and 20oz. of meat.

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A great responsibility rests upon the shoulders of the munition workers. Their spirit and energy in France remain unabated. They are not entirely satisfied, and look keenly after their own interests. But they are like Napoleon's "progrèsards" who always gambled but always emerged on top. Their mind continues to be economic, practical and dispassionate, but the mind does not sit in the defense of their craft, before national defense. They all think that it is better to manufacture ploughs than shells, but they know that they must make shells to have the ploughs later. After all, the characteristic of the French working class is economic sense. It is not good if he can secure a job peace.

France has no desire for conquest of any kind. What she demands for herself is the restoration of Alsace-Lorraine and reparation for the terrible wrongs inflicted upon her by the invaders. From the parts of the country now occupied by the enemy the message comes again and again, as the French working class do the French working class. Before the final peace comes, before we have attained a just peace. —Daily Chronicle.

